

Prohibited goods - Access customers

Items you cannot send in the post


There are some items which Royal Mail is unable to carry in the UK for legal or health and safety reasons. This comprehensive A-Z guide gives you detailed information about the things Access customers cannot post with us, as well as highlighting the areas where there may be exceptions.

Failure to comply with these regulations could result in prosecution. You are responsible for checking whether or not an item is prohibited.

If you are not sure about the item you wish to post, please contact your Access Account Director.

Prohibited item*	Detailed information
Aerosols	<p>Including spray paints, lacquers, solvents, air fresheners, oven cleaners, deodorants, body sprays, hair sprays, shaving and hair removal creams.</p> <p>Inhalers with a volume of 50ml or less are allowed. Please see the restricted goods page on www.royalmailwholesale.com</p>
Alcoholic beverages	<p>With an alcohol content greater than 24% ABV including spirits such as gin, vodka and whisky.</p> <p>Alcoholic beverages with an alcohol content no greater than 24% ABV including beer, lager, wine and champagne, are allowed. Please see the restricted goods page on www.royalmailwholesale.com</p>
Ammunition	Except lead pellets.
Asbestos	Except when sent as a sample fixed in a resin, plastic or glass matrix.
Batteries	<p>Batteries that are classed as dangerous goods by the latest edition of the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Technical Instructions are prohibited. This includes lithium ion/polymer/metal/alloy batteries sent in isolation, with or contained in electronic equipment such as mobile phones or digital cameras.</p> <p>Lead acid batteries (e.g. car batteries) and sealed lead acid batteries are also prohibited.</p> <p>Alkaline, nickel metal hydride (NiMH) and nickel cadmium (NiCd) batteries may only be sent when new and in their original packaging. Please see the restricted goods page on www.royalmailwholesale.com</p>

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Clinical and medical waste	For example contaminated dressings, bandages and needles.
Controlled drugs and narcotics	Including cannabis, cocaine, heroin, LSD, opium and amyl nitrate.
Corrosive substances	Substances which can cause severe damage to living tissue, other freight or transport by its chemical action are prohibited including aluminium chloride, caustic soda, corrosive cleaning fluid, dyes, acids, corrosive paint and rust removers, mercury and gallium metal.
Counterfeit currency, bank notes and postage stamps	Including any false instrument, or copy of a false instrument (within the meaning of section 5 of the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981) except copies of old denominations, which are now obsolete and worthless except for collectable value and cannot be passed as tender. Please see the restricted goods page on www.royalmailwholesale.com
Dry ice	For example UN1845 when used as a coolant for UN3373 or for other perishable items.
Environmental waste	Including used batteries and used engine oil.
Electronic items containing any batteries exceeding 100Wh	Including some high performance laptops and power tools.
Explosives	Any chemical compound, mixture or device capable of producing an explosive or pyrotechnic effect with substantial instantaneous release of heat and gas is prohibited e.g. ammunition, blasting caps, fireworks, flares, fuses, igniters and nitro-glycerine. Items that appear to be prohibited explosive ordnance may be subject to additional checks and delays.
Flammable liquids	This includes mixtures of liquids or liquids containing solids in solution or suspension which give off a flammable vapour. Any liquid with a closed cup flash point below 60.5° C is prohibited e.g. acetone, benzene, cleaning compounds, gasoline, lighter fuel, paint thinners and removers, petroleum and solvents, certain alcoholic beverages, perfumes and aftershaves, varnishes and enamels including nail varnish.
Flammable solids	Solid materials which are liable to cause fire by friction, absorption of water, spontaneous chemical changes or retained heat from manufacturing or processing, or

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	<p>which can be readily ignited and burn vigorously e.g. adhesives, calcium carbide, cellulose nitrate products, fire lighters, matches, metallic magnesium, nitro-cellulose based film, phosphorous, potassium, sodium, sodium hydride, zinc powder, zirconium hydride.</p>
Frozen water	Including packs of ice.
Gases	<p>Gases that are compressed, liquefied or dissolved under pressure, permanent gases which cannot be liquefied at ambient temperatures, liquefied gases which become liquid under pressure at ambient temperatures, dissolved gases which are dissolved under pressure in a solvent.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All flammable compressed gases are prohibited e.g. blowlamps; butane; lighters and refills containing flammable liquid or gas; ethane; gas cylinders for camping stoves; hydrogen; methane and propane. 2. All toxic compressed gases are prohibited e.g. chlorine; fluorine etc. 3. All non-flammable compressed gases are prohibited e.g. air bags; scuba tanks, carbon dioxide; fire extinguishers; neon and nitrogen.
Goods made in foreign prisons	Except those imported for a non-commercial purpose, of a kind not manufactured in the UK, or those in transit.
Human and animal remains	Including ashes.
Infectious substances UN2814 or UN2900	<p>Category A Infectious Substances are prohibited e.g. Ebola, Anthrax, Foot and Mouth disease as detailed in the latest edition of the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Technical Instructions. For more information please see the IATA Guidance Document on Infectious Substances .</p>
Lighters and refills containing flammable liquid or gas	<p>Including used butane and petrol cigar and cigarette lighters.</p> <p>New and unused empty lighters are allowed. Please see the restricted goods page on www.royalmailwholesale.com</p>
Living creatures, animals and reptiles	<p>Except certain insects and invertebrates. Please see the restricted goods page on www.royalmailwholesale.com</p>
Lottery tickets	Except UK lottery tickets.

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Magnetised material	Magnetised material with a magnetic field strength of 0.159A/m or more at a distance of 2.1m from the outside of the package.
Matches	Of any kind, including safety and windproof matches.
Obscene publications and unlawful indecent images	Including obscene or extreme pornography as detailed in Part 5 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 and indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of a child as detailed in section 160 and 161 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988
Oxidising materials and organic peroxides	These are substances such as disinfectants that may cause or contribute to combustion of other substances. They may also be liable to explosive decomposition, react dangerously with other substances and injure health e.g. bromides, chlorates, components of fibreglass repair kits, disinfectants, nitrates, per chlorates, permanganates and peroxides, including hair dyes and colourants containing peroxide.
Pesticides	Including weed killer and any chemical that is used to kill pests and insects such as fly sprays.
Poisonous, toxic liquids, solids or gases	Including substances that are liable to cause death or injury if swallowed or inhaled or by skin contact, such as arsenic, beryllium, cyanide, fluorine, rat poison.
Radioactive materials	Radioactive materials and samples that are classified as radioactive using Table 2-12 of the latest edition of the International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions e.g. fissile material (uranium 235, etc), radioactive waste material, thorium or uranium ores and luminous dials from aircraft.
Solvent-based paints, wood varnishes and enamels	Including gloss paint
Tickets and related advertisements for illegal lotteries	
Waste, dirt, filth or refuse	Including household waste or rubbish.
Weapons	Including Section 5 firearms, CS gas and pepper sprays, flick knives, tasers and stun

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guns. Items that appear to be prohibited weapons may be subject to additional checks and delays.

Guns for sporting use, including Section 1, Section 2 firearms and low-powered airguns are allowed, subject to any applicable controls on the possession of firearms. Please see the restricted goods page on www.royalmailwholesale.com

*We reserve the right to refuse any other item banned by law or that in our opinion may be harmful or dangerous to our customers or employees. If you send dangerous goods and do not comply with the applicable terms and conditions and legal requirements then we may deal with the goods as we see fit including destroying or disposing of the relevant goods.